

# HOW TO CREATE A DIGITAL COLLAGE WITH PIXLR

Eun Ji  
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lbsc642.ahnjune.com

## WHAT IS PIXLR?

Pixlr (pixlr.com) is a free online image editor, which was developed in Sweden in 2008 and was later acquired by Autodesk.

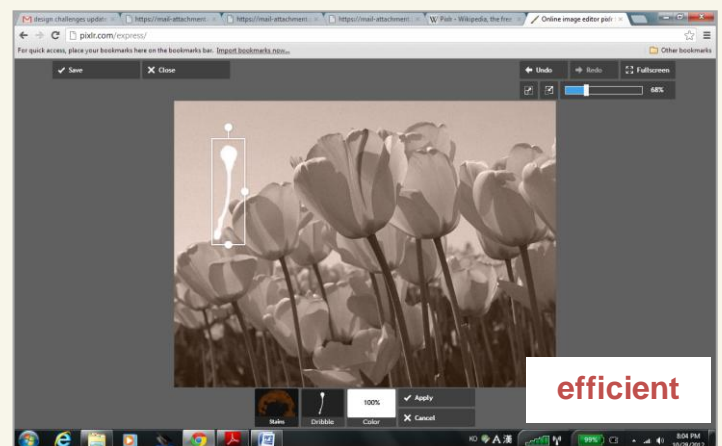
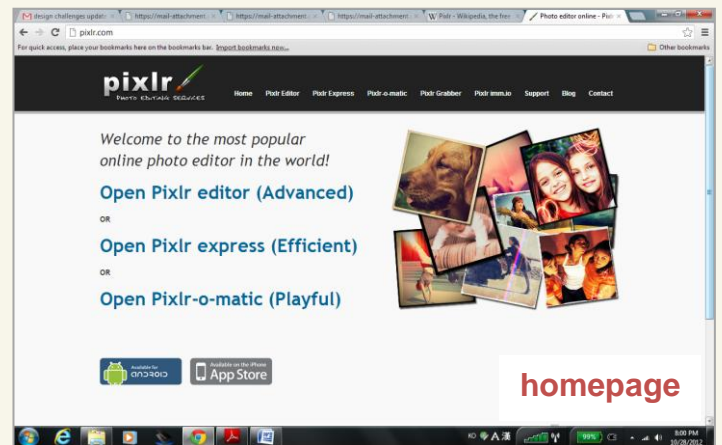
## WHY PIXLR?

Visual literacy is crucial in an age when people consume and produce much information via images and videos. Pixlr gives a set of tools for people to create meaningful art and have fun at the same time.

Pixlr offers a variety of robust tools such as layers and filters that make it a viable alternative to a professional program such as Adobe Photoshop. Educators and students can freely access it with connection to the Internet.

No download is necessary to run the program. Pixlr is cloud-based.

Pixlr also offers three different platforms (novice, efficient and advanced) and embraces users of various skill levels.



## DIGITAL COLLAGE PROJECT USING PIXLR ADVANCED

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Time:** 1 week, with teacher introduction and mini assignment (1 class), self-tutorial (20 minutes to one class) and production (3 classes). These are only suggestions, however.

**Setting:** Computer lab or classroom with computers, laptops or tablets

**Materials:** Computer with Internet access for each student

**Objectives:** All works of art consist of form and content. The purpose of this collage project is to explore the two components of art by making order and meaning. Students will explore raster-based imagery.

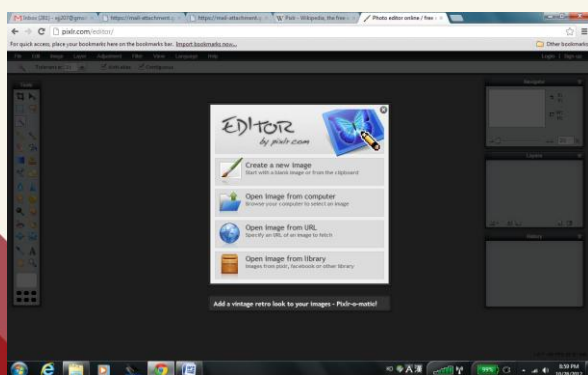
**Other notes:** This lesson can be taught in conjunction to a computer graphic teacher's class, a librarian's information literacy class and an English teacher's literature class. The lesson creates opportunities for learning about graphics, fair use and creative writing.

## STEPS

**Step 1:** Teacher(s) should review the lesson, objectives and project with students.

**Step 2:** Teacher(s) should spend sufficient time introducing concepts such as form and content and how they work together.

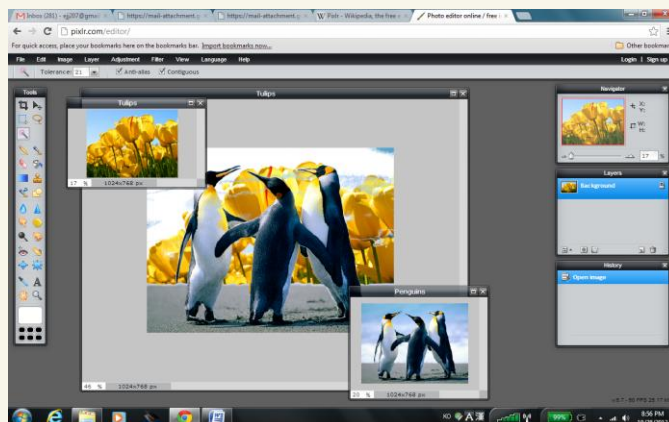
**Step 3:** Teacher(s) introduces Pixlr by demonstrating its use in front of students. Teacher distributes a mini activity that students can complete to become proficient users. Teacher walks around to offer help and encourages students to help each other learn the program.



**Step 4:** Teacher reviews the digital collage project by describing each component of the project clearly.

**Step 5:** First, students find or create at least four images (photos, drawings, textures, etc.) related to their self-identity. Students submit images and why they chose them in a Word document.

**Step 6:** Second, students use Pixlr to modify and combine chosen images to create collage image. (Students do not have to use all of the images submitted previously. They can also add more images.) Students will also title their work.



**Step 7:** Third, students will present their work to class. They will explain the meaning of their work and how they created (what functions in Pixlr and processes).